



# Somerville Federation

**Somerville Primary School and Somerville Nursery School**

**Northbrook Road, Wallasey, Wirral. CH44 9AR**

**Tel: 0151 638 5074 Fax: 0151 639 1019**

**[schooloffice@somerville.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@somerville.wirral.sch.uk)**

**[www.somerville.wirral.sch.uk](http://www.somerville.wirral.sch.uk)**

**Executive Headteacher – Mr M J Forber**

**15<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers

Since my last letter to all parents and carers the government has now released further guidance to support the reopening of schools. This guidance has been changed and updated daily this week for Primary Schools which has not been helpful in the planning stages to reopen to Foundation 2, Year 1 and Year 6 potentially from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. Guidance for Early Years Settings has been limited and not as detailed but I hope this will improve over the coming days.

As you know I have already started to plan the reopening phase of the school to F1, F2, Y1 and Y6 with members of the executive team as well as other staff. I will be continuing these plans with other members of the school staff in the week ahead. There will be lots to plan for over the coming days and I am sure you yourself will have lots of questions and thoughts on the matter of reopening our two schools. Please know that I will only be opening our two schools when I am satisfied that we can keep our children, staff and families safe.

Please can I thank everyone in Foundation 1, Foundation 2, Y1 and Y6 for your speedy response to my survey which I sent to you earlier this week (190 responses), I think the first ten responses were done in the first minute. The summary results from these parents have now been published on our Federation website. Your responses have been extremely helpful at this early stage to give us an idea of the possibility of your child returning to school possibly from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. As we get closer to possibly opening on 1st June I will come back to you to know the definite numbers as there was an equal split over Yes/No and Maybes. Once again many thanks for your many comments, as well as the positive comments and thanks for the work of our staff in school in supporting you and your family during this crisis. A number of parents who said No or Maybe asked whether they would get fined if their child did not attend school. The government has confirmed that no fines will be issued during this period for non-attendance.

May I also thank those parents who complete the Year 5 residential survey for November 2020. We are just waiting on a few more parents and carers of children in Year 5 (41 responses so far) to complete the survey before any decision can be made as to whether the planning for a possible trip will go ahead. If you know of anyone who has not yet completed the survey please let them know that we need their responses either way to understand whether the visit would be viable and there is no commitment at this stage.

## **Childcare Provision.**

Childcare provision for key worker children and those who need additional support will continue during any reopening to year groups. We have had several requests from key workers for their child to now attend school due to their work reopening. I can imagine this increasing further over the coming days as more and more key workers attend work. Whilst we will do our best to accommodate the needs of key workers and vulnerable children, our childcare is a limited resource and we may need to prioritise key workers if the numbers increase further. Our priority is obviously those on the front line during this pandemic. We will remain open during the half term holiday for key workers and those needing additional support. We hope to give those staff who work every day a rest day on the Bank Holiday as we were able to during the last Bank Holiday. Please continue to remember that the childcare survey must be completed by 7pm on a Friday the week before your childcare is required, this ensures that we can create the staff rota and inform staff prior to the start of the week.

## **Working from home.**

Please continue to utilise the online learning that has been made available to you. As the school starts to reopen there will obviously be a reduction in the amount made available to you both for those year groups who return to school as well as those year groups not yet returning. This is because more staff will be required in school to ensure that the children socially distance and staff continue to provide childcare. If you have any worries about working from home don't hesitate to email your child's year group teachers, for example: [year1@somerville.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:year1@somerville.wirral.sch.uk) Foundation 2 is [F2year@somerville.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:F2year@somerville.wirral.sch.uk) this is the only one that differs slightly in format.

### **Free School Meal Vouchers.**

Vouchers have been issued earlier today for next week 18<sup>th</sup> May to 22<sup>nd</sup> May. It seems that the government website has improved and ordering a week in advance has obviously meant that the codes have arrived earlier than the last few weeks in your inbox. Please resist the temptation to try and use the codes before Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May as they will not be able to be redeemed until then and you will probably get an error code as well becoming frustrated.

I have not heard yet whether the government intend to supply free school meal vouchers over the half term break as they have done previously. I know that there was some talk that the government would not continue this but this has not been confirmed yet and like the guidance for reopening schools this may change again.

If your child has free school meals (241 children in the Primary School and 13 children in the Nursery School) and you have not yet received your voucher, rest assured that I have sent you your vouchers to your registered email address or mobile phone number. However if you have still not received it then please get in touch with the school as soon as possible. The first batch of vouchers expires in 8 days' time and we will not be able to reissue these vouchers once the government reclaim the funds. I have just taken a look on the government's Edenred website and this applies to 26 children who have not had their codes claimed. Please get in touch as this is rightfully money for you to buy food for your children.

Anyone who wishes to apply for free school meals and is in receipt of Universal Credit and whose household income is under £660 per month here is the link <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-wirral/>

### **Contacting the school.**

Just a reminder once again that we continue to check answer phone messages daily and any emails. Emails can be sent to the [schooloffice@somerville.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@somerville.wirral.sch.uk) and these are either forwarded to me or are sent to the business manager if it relates to free school meals as of this week.

I look forward to bringing you more information about our plans for phase 1 of our reopening once plans have been put in place and there have been no more changes from government guidance. I will also be in touch with other parents with children not in these year groups (phase 2) once the government feels that is safe to introduce more children to the schools.

On behalf of all of the staff I would just like to finish by saying that we have missed not seeing your children every day and we all look forward to coming back to school to support the children of our two schools when it is safe to do so.

I will be in touch soon and before the end of May to find out which children will definitely be attending in phase 1 and until then look after yourselves and stay alert!

With regards and best wishes to you all,



Mr M J Forber  
Executive Headteacher